



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Final Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for  
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary: Notice of Public  
Availability

**AGENCY:** Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS),  
National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce  
(DOC) .

**ACTION:** Notice of public availability.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA is releasing the final management plan and  
environmental assessment for Monitor National Marine  
Sanctuary.

**DATE:** The final management plan and environmental  
assessment for Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is now  
available.

**ADDRESSES:** To obtain a copy of the final management plan and environmental assessment, contact the Management Plan Review Coordinator, Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606; (757) 591-7328; or via email at [Monitor@noaa.gov](mailto:Monitor@noaa.gov). Copies can also be downloaded from the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) website at <http://monitor.noaa.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shannon Ricles at (757) 591-7328.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background information**

On January 30, 1975, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) as the nation's first national marine sanctuary. MNMS protects the wreck of the famed Civil War ironclad, USS Monitor, best known for its battle with the Confederate ironclad, CSS Virginia in Hampton Roads, Va., on March 9, 1862.

NOAA began to review the management plan for MNMS in December 2008 with public scoping (including meetings). This was followed by meetings of sanctuary advisory council

working groups to develop the action plans of the management plan.

NOAA released a draft revised management plan on April 12, 2012, and accepted comments through June 22, 2012 (77 F.R. 22761). During the public comment period, NOAA held five public meetings in Raleigh, NC, Wilmington, NC, Beaufort, NC, Nags Head, NC, and Newport News, VA. Comments can be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov> with docket number NOAA-NOS-2012-0076. All comments received are addressed in Appendix I: Response to Public Comments.

## **II. Environmental Assessment**

NOAA prepared an environmental assessment, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, that analyzes the environmental impacts of the revised management plan. NOAA's analysis of environmental impacts of this action resulted in a finding of no significant impact.

**Dated:** February 6, 2013.

**Daniel J. Basta**

Director

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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